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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

25th July, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Benjamin Gimbert, Driver (March), London and North Eastern Railway Company.

James William Nightall (deceased), Fireman (March), London and North Eastern Railway Company.

As an ammunition train was pulling into a station in Cambridgeshire, the driver, Gimbert, discovered that the wagon next to the engine was on fire. He immediately drew Nightall's attention to the fire and brought the train to a standstill. By the time the train had stopped the whole of the truck was enveloped in flames and, realising the danger, the driver instructed the fireman to try to uncouple the truck immediately behind the blazing vehicle. Without the slightest hesitation Nightall, although he knew that the truck contained explosives, uncoupled the vehicle and rejoined his driver on the footplate.

The blazing van was close to the station buildings and was obviously liable to endanger life in the village. The driver and fireman realised that it was essential to separate the truck from the remainder of the train and run it into the open. Driver Gimbert set the engine in motion and as he approached a signal box he warned the signalman to stop any trains which were likely to be involved and indicated what he intended to do. Almost immediately the vehicle blew up. Nightall was killed and Gimbert was very severely injured.

Gimbert and Nightall were fully aware of the contents of the wagon which was on fire and displayed outstanding courage and resource in endeavouring to isolate it. When they discovered that the wagon was on fire they could easily have left the train and

sought shelter, but realising that if they did not remove the burning vehicle the whole of the train, which consisted of 51 wagons of explosives, would have blown up, they risked their lives in order to minimise the effect of the fire. There is no doubt that if the whole train had been involved, as it would have been but for the gallant action of the men concerned, there would have been serious loss of life and property.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

25th July, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct:—

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Leslie Eros Clayton, Chief Officer, Merchant Navy.

The ship was sailing in convoy in the North Atlantic when an aircraft engaged in patrol duties was seen to crash into the sea.

The Chief Officer displayed exceptional courage in a fine rescue effort. He was in charge of a boat which was immediately lowered from the vessel. One of the airmen was seen to be trapped in the aircraft's structure and unable to free himself. Mr. Clayton immediately dived overboard and succeeded in releasing him. As a result of this brave action, which undoubtedly saved the airman's life, Mr. Clayton suffered from exposure and had to be taken to hospital on the ship's arrival in port.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Ruby Olive, Mrs. Boye, Santa Cruz, British Solomon Islands Protectorate (now serving in Women's Royal Australian Naval Service).

For valuable services in maintaining communications in dangerous conditions.

Leonard Cooper, Detective Constable, Cheshire Constabulary.

John Fossey, Detective Inspector (Manchester Victoria), London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company Police.

Detective Constable Cooper was on duty at Carrington Railway Sidings with Detective Inspector Fossey keeping special watch on goods vans and wagons which were standing loaded in the sidings.

A car stopped on the bridge near the sidings, the lights of the car were extinguished and three men got out and went to a shed by the side of the railway line. A few minutes later one of the men came out of the shed carrying flour flitches of bacon and went towards the car. One of the officers shone a torch and the man dropped the bacon and ran back to the shed to warn his companions. The police officers ran after him and as they entered the shed Cooper flashed a light and shouted that they were the police. The man whom they had followed into the shed was seen to be pointing a double-barrel shotgun at the policemen and the other two men were handling a case of lard. The officers closed in and one of the men shouted to the one with the gun to shoot, but the officers managed to knock the gun from his hand before he could fire. There was a struggle and two of the men escaped across the railway. They were followed by railway policemen and the third man was chased by Cooper and Fossey and, after a struggle, was caught and arrested. The other two men were arrested later. The gun was found to be loaded with two cartridges and the hammers were cocked.

Cooper and Fossey showed bravery and devotion to duty in the manner in which they effected the arrest of the three armed miscreants.

William Henry May, Groundsman, Sandhurst.
Frederick Harry Smith, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Sandhurst.

An aircraft crashed and burst into flames. Smith, May and an airman rushed to the scene although the machine was blazing so intensely that any attempt at rescue seemed hopeless.

One of the bombs carried by the plane exploded as they approached and enveloped the airman in flames. Smith, who had been thrown and burnt by the explosion succeeded, after a struggle, in stifling the flames and May then helped him to carry the victim to safety.

Smith and May showed courage in conditions of imminent danger, and before the bomb exploded made every effort to reach the occupants of the machine.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct.

When aircraft crashed and caught fire:—

Mary Ethel, Mrs. Baldwin, Milk Roundswoman, Ashdon, Nr. Saffron Walden.

Eva, Mrs. Butters, Housewife, Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Leveson, William Goswell, Bricklayer, Little Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Mabel, Mrs. Goswell, Housewife, Little Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Francis Peabody, Butcher, Bracknell, Berkshire.

Leonard Arthur Williams, Electrician, Little Sandhurst, Berkshire.

When attempting to arrest armed miscreants:—

Arthur Ambrose Warrington, M.M., Police Constable (Manchester Central), London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company Police.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

25th July, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Ezekiel George Anthony, Station Foreman, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

A bomb completely demolished a dwelling house and a woman and a boy were trapped in the basement. The whole of the upper floors had collapsed leaving a gap of one foot between the basement floor and the debris. The adjoining party walls and chimney stacks were in a dangerous condition and further collapse of the debris appeared likely. Anthony, after removing some of the debris and constructing temporary shoring to hold back the remainder, worked his way into the gap for a distance of 14 feet and found the casualties alive. They were trapped by a table with the whole of the wreckage from the house piled on top. Working in this opening Anthony managed to release the woman. A rope was then tied around his feet and he was dragged out with the woman hanging on to him. Whilst she was receiving attention Anthony carried out the rescue of the boy in the same manner, the whole operation taking about three-quarters of an hour. Immediately after the child was brought out the floor and debris collapsed completely.

Anthony showed courage and devotion to duty without regard for his own safety.

Jonah Williams, Temporary Sergeant, Portsmouth City Police.

A bomb fell on a dwelling-house and demolished the whole building. A man and his wife were trapped in a room, the ceiling of which had collapsed under several tons of debris that had fallen and was resting at a distance of two feet six inches from the floor. After breaking away portions of the collapsed ceiling with his hands, Sergeant Williams extricated the man from his trapped position and assisted him clear of the building. The Sergeant then re-entered the building and, in

a cramped and confined position, tunnelled through the wreckage until he found the woman who unfortunately was dead.

Sergeant Williams showed courage without thought for his own safety. Whilst he was tunnelling the wreckage was in imminent danger of collapsing and guns were still firing at enemy aircraft overhead.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Charles William Henry Boulter, Tinsmith and Maintenance Fitter, Folkestone Gas and Coke Company.
 Thomas Edward Steward Gay, Senior Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Hornsey.
 Reginald George Henderson, District Superintendent, Folkestone Gas and Coke Company.
 Ivan Frederick Ives, Senior Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Wembley.
 Frederick Lavender, Member, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.
 Charles H. Marsh, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Enfield.
 Sidney Osborn, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer in charge of First Aid Post, Civil Defence Casualty Service, Ipswich.
 William Edward Sweet, Sergeant, Sussex Special Constabulary.
 Charles Dennis Wall, Assistant Engineer, Folkestone Gas and Coke Company.

The announcement relative to C. G. Miles on page 2679 of Gazette No. 36547 dated 10th June, 1944, is cancelled, the award of the B.E.M. having been already announced in Gazette No. 36312 dated 4th January, 1944.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

25th July, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British

Empire, in the Merchant Navy, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct:—

To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain Harrison Raven, Master.

The ship, sailing in company, was torpedoed and badly damaged. The Master ordered the passengers and the majority of the crew to the boats while he with nine of the crew remained on board. After examination he decided that there was a possibility of saving the ship so he recalled the boats and, steaming at half speed, reached an anchorage. The following day one of the bulkheads, which had been weakened by the explosion, was strengthened by stowing cargo against it and the ship continued the voyage under her own power. The passengers and a number of the crew considered unessential for the journey were landed. Bad weather developed with gales and high seas, but the ship, proceeding slowly, eventually reached port in spite of the dangers of further enemy attack.

Captain Raven displayed outstanding courage and skill throughout and it was due to his determination, judgment and leadership that the badly damaged ship was brought safely to port.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct when their ships encountered enemy ships, submarines, aircraft or mines:—

William John L'Estrange Heppard, Esq., Chief Officer.
 George Richard Knorring, Quartermaster.
 Captain Evan William Owens (deceased), Master.
 Captain Joseph Wilson, O.B.E., Master.

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